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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 22, 2004

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### **FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND SPOUSE PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES**

**TUCSON, Ariz.** -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on September 22, 2004, Febronio Steven Munoz, age 51, and his spouse, Emily O. Munoz, age 49, both of Tucson, Ariz., pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to felony charges. Steven Munoz, pleaded guilty to four counts of Theft from an Organization Receiving Federal Funds and one count of Filing a False Federal Income Tax Return for 2000. Emily Munoz pleaded guilty to two counts of Filing a False Federal Income Tax Return for 1999 and 2000. Sentencing for both defendants is scheduled for December 3, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. before U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata.

On December 17, 2003, a federal grand jury in Tucson, Ariz., returned a 32-count indictment against Steven Munoz and a 10-count indictment against his spouse, Emily Munoz. In the written plea agreements, Steven Munoz admitted that he had previously been employed by the Tucson Police Department and had been detailed to the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Trafficking Interdiction Squad (MANTIS) where his duties included seizing property involved in the possession of, and trafficking in, narcotics, including large amounts of currency while serving as a forfeiture officer of the Financial Remedies Squad.

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Steven Munoz admitted in his written plea agreement that during the period from October 1997 until April 2001, he embezzled approximately \$615,000 in currency seized in 56 cases where he was the forfeiture officer or an assisting officer. Munoz retired from Tucson Police Department shortly after his superiors at MANTIS commenced an audit of the forfeiture files to determine why deposits of numerous currency seizures into the MANTIS account at the City of Tucson Collections Department had not occurred.

Also according to the indictment, on five occasions during the time period August 1999 through August 2000, Steven and Emily Munoz, allegedly transported currency which had been stolen, converted, or taken by fraud, to Las Vegas from Tucson, Ariz., in violation of 18 U.S. Code Section 2314 (Interstate Transportation Of Stolen Property). The amounts taken to Las Vegas exceeded \$69,000.

Finally, during 1997 through 2001, Steven and Emily Munoz allegedly willfully subscribed and filed a false Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, with the Internal Revenue Service Center in Ogden, Utah, by understating their total income on line 22 of each respective return, in violation of Title 26 Section 7206(1).

A conviction for Title 18 U.S. Code 666(a)(1)(A) carries a maximum penalty of ten years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Title 26 U.S. Code Section 7206(1) carries a maximum penalty of three years, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by special agents of the FBI, agents of the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and officers of the Pima County Sheriff's Office and the Tucson Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by Danny N. Roetzel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR 03-2504-1-TUC-FRZ(CRP)

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